

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Unopposed Candidates Have Their Say

By ADAM SWIFT

Even though they are running unopposed, three candidates took time out of their schedules to take part in Thursday night's candidates' forum.

Earlier in the week, Town Moderator Allen Bornheimer wrapped up his 26th



Bornheimer

year at the helm of Town Meeting. Bornheimer is running unopposed for the opportunity to oversee Town Meeting for a 27th year.

He said he was pleased to see healthy attendance and a number of new faces at Town Meeting.

Bornheimer said that healthy attendance could be jeopardized if the town decided to broadcast Town Meeting live on local access television.

"I want people in the seats," Bornheimer said. "If they are at home watching, they're not taking part in the discussion. I was very pleased



Moody

with the attendance this year, but some years we struggle to get decent attendance."

Incumbent Planning Board member Harold

Moody, Jr. is running for a five-year term on the board after having been appointed by selectmen 2 1/2 years ago.

While there aren't currently any new Chapter 40B affordable housing developments before the Planning Board, Moody said 40B development would continue to be a big issue in Duxbury and throughout the state.

Moody said the dip in 40B proposals is more a product of a slowing of the real estate market in general rather than a specific cooling of the 40B market.

Moody was also asked

VOTER GUIDE

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about a recent disagreement between the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals over the lifting of an age restriction at the Merry Village development on Lincoln Street.

The ZBA approved the change in the Merry Village permit, even though Moody said the Planning Board had concerns about the project.

"It creates a different occupant and a different impact on traffic and school use," Moody said.

While the two boards did disagree on Merry Village, Moody said there was some good that came from the discussion.

"The give and take that came from that will probably be helpful to the town's different boards," he said.

Moody and Cynthia Fiorini are running for the two Planning Board spots on the March 22 ballot.

Library Trustee James Mandrell is also running unopposed this year.

Mandrell said he is not satisfied with the budget for the library, and noted that its operation is not fully funded by the town. Groups such as the Friends of the Duxbury Free Library cover some costs, he said.

"The library is just like the new town common," he said. "It's a virtual town commons and a repository for much of the history of the community."

The library is not a museum, and needs to be constantly updated with new materials in order to remain relevant, Mandrell said.

Mandrell and John Britten are running for the two library trustee positions on the town election ballot.



Mandrell